

Reform Coalition, which helped develop far-reaching health care reforms adopted by the State Legislature in 1992. In May of 1995, the Executive Board (with the reaffirmation of its 600 delegates) named Mr. Wowkanech the Secretary-Treasurer of the NJ State AFL-CIO. And as the former Chairman of the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage Program Board (IHC), Mr. Wowkanech was responsible for getting the state to adopt the strictest consumer protection standards in the nation.

In the spring of 1997, the Essex County Boy Scouts Council named Mr. Wowkanech "Good Scout of the Year." He continues to serve as labor's representative to the IHC Board and is also a member of the Governor's Council for a Drug-Free Workplace. Currently, he is a member of the executive boards of the Botto House National Labor Museum, the Rutgers Labor Center, and the Tri-State United Way's Board of Governors. Mr. Wowkanech resides with his wife, Lu Ann, and his sons Charles and Michael in Ocean City, New Jersey.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wowkanech's community service. I extend to him my appreciation and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SHIPMAN ELEVATOR COMPANY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Shipman Elevator Company's chemical plant in Shipman, IL, for winning a 1999 Environmental Respect Award from Dealer Progress Magazine.

Shipman Elevator Company has taken proactive steps to ensure that their operations are safe and environmentally sound. For example, they use a combination of a computerized mixing program and the facility manager to ensure the processing and measuring of their products is always accurate. They also routinely conduct training and education classes for all of their employees to ensure the completion of environmental and efficiency goals.

I would like to express my gratitude to Shipman Elevator Company for producing agriculture products that are environmentally respected.

TRIBUTE TO EULA D. NELSON FLEET

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Eula D. Nelson Fleet, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education and to wish her a happy retirement.

Born in Apalachicola, Florida, Mrs. Fleet moved to New York City in 1943. In 1956, with her husband and four children, she moved to Patterson Houses in the Bronx, where they have lived ever since.

Mr. Speaker, in 1957, when her first child started school at P.S. 18, Eula Fleet started her long involvement with our educational system and was elected treasurer of the school's PTA. From 1970 to 1973 she served as Vice President, then President of the PTA at J.H.S. 149; from 1973 to 1979 she was an Educational Assistant at the Development Learning Program at P.S. 5; from 1979 to 1980 she was an Educational Assistant at the Development Learning Program at P.S. 156; from 1980 to 1981 she was an Educational Assistant in Early Childhood at P.S. 30; in 1982 she was an Educational Assistant at P.S. 124; and in 1983 she was named Assistant to the Director at the Milbrook Senior Citizen Center.

Mrs. Fleet has also been very involved with the community. From January 1970 until July 1999 when she retired, she served at Community Board #1 in several capacities: Chair of the Education Committee, Treasurer, Health Committee, and Chair of the Housing Committee. She also served in Upward Bound Program at Fordham University, as Assistant Treasurer of the Mott Haven Center Community Advisory Board, and on the Joint Advisory Board of Eastside Settlement House.

Mrs. Fleet was married to the famous jazz guitar player William A. Fleet, Sr., who passed away in April 1994. She has four children, William, Evelyn, James, and Francis, and four grandchildren, James, Jr., Jawann, Jayanna, and Michelle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Eula D. Nelson Fleet for her achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community, and in wishing her a happy retirement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JAKE N. VAN METER, JR., FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to pay special tribute to a true American patriot from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jake H. Van Meter, Jr.

On October 7, 1967, Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. paid the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the values and ideals of democracy. On that fateful day, some thirty-two years ago, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was serving as squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. His Army unit was sent to the Con Thien area in the Republic of Vietnam to help relieve an outpost of United States Marines. During their mission, his unit came under heavy and intense enemy fire during an attack on the Marine outpost.

During the firefight, Sergeant Van Meter demonstrated extreme bravery as he exposed himself to fierce enemy fire to draw attention away from his troops and enable them to take cover. With several of his men lying wounded, Sergeant Van Meter left his position and began removing them from the field of fire. In his efforts to save the lives of his men, Sergeant Van Meter was wounded, but he continued until they were pulled to safety.

At approximately two o'clock in the afternoon, while laying down a heavy amount of covering fire in the midst of the firefight, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was killed by enemy gunfire. He was just twenty-four years old. For his gallantry in action and in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and the United States Army, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was posthumously awarded the Silver Star on March 15, 1968.

Jake Van Meter was an ordinary young man from LaGrange, Ohio when he entered the United States Army. He lived on Factory Street and worked as a die cast operator for General Motors Corporation. However, when Jake was drafted, he accepted his responsibility, and began his duty in Vietnam on October 22, 1966. Unfortunately, his tour of duty was to have ended just 12 days after his death.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. should make our hearts swell with admiration and pride. He courageously placed his life on the line for his men and his country. He fought for America, for democracy, and for freedom, and paid the supreme price for the preservation of those principles.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Veterans Day, let us remember the men and women who have served in our armed forces. It is often said that America prospers due to the unselfish acts of her sons and daughters. Jake Van Meter's brave actions in Vietnam demonstrate that statement very clearly. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jake H. Van Meter, Jr.—a faithful husband and father, a loving son, and a true American hero.

THE RETIREMENT OF PATRICIA LAGREGA AS TOWN CLERK OF COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Pat LaGrega for nearly thirty years of service to the community of Colchester, Connecticut. Pat is more than an extraordinary public servant, she is a humanitarian and a personal friend.

On November 15, 1999, Pat LaGrega will officially retire as Town Clerk of Colchester after more than twenty one years in the position. In small towns across America, Town Clerks maintain all of the records so vital to guaranteeing that our system functions efficiently and effectively. In many respects, the Town Clerk is the institutional memory of so many small communities across eastern Connecticut and the nation. Over more than two decades, Pat has worked tirelessly to ensure that the citizens, elected officials and business owners of Colchester receive the best possible service. She has supervised a modernization process which has computerized the Town Clerk's office to ensure that records will be accurate, safe and available to citizens and others in a timely fashion. Even before the widespread use of computers, Pat was well known for meticulous recordkeeping and attention to